

1. A fault tolerant dial router, comprising:

a primary line interface unit coupled to telephone lines from a telephone network;

a primary conversion subsystem converting calls on the telephone lines into packets;

10 a router routing the packets on a packet based network; and

a primary cross-connect switch coupled between the primary line interface unit and the primary conversion subsystem that reconnects the primary line interface unit to a secondary conversion subsystem when a failure is detected in the primary subsystem.

15